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DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Peter N. Lalos (Reg. No. 19,789) on 28 April 2009.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 1 – 18.

Replace claim 19 and 25 as follows.

Claim 19:

A method for protecting against manipulation of a motor vehicle controller including a microcomputer and at least one memory ~~module~~ module(s), ~~said~~ at least one of said memory module(s) constituting a read-only memory, comprising:

initially reading out data stored in said read-only memory at start-up of said controller;

reading out identifiers of said read-only memory and ~~one of said microcomputer and a second memory~~ said microcomputer and one of second memories;

storing said identifiers in said microcomputer;

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generating a key corresponding to said identifiers;
encrypting said data utilizing said key;
saving said encrypted data in said read-only memory;
reading out of said identifiers upon subsequent activation of said controller;
generating a key from said subsequently ~~generated~~ read-out identifiers;
accessing the encrypted data of said read-only memory; and
~~attempting decryption of~~ decrypting said encrypted data by said subsequently generated key.

Claim 25:

In a motor vehicle controller including a microcomputer and at least one memory ~~module~~ module(s), said at least one ~~of said~~ memory module(s) constituting a read-only memory, a system for protecting against manipulation of ~~such~~ said controller comprising;

means for initially reading out data stored in said read-only memory at start-up of said controller;

means for reading out identifiers of said read-only memory and ~~one of said microcomputer and a second memory~~ said microcomputer and one of second memories;

means for storing said identifiers in said microcomputer; means generating a key corresponding to said identifiers;

means for encrypting said data utilizing said key;

means for saving said encrypted data in said read-only memory;

means for reading out said identifiers upon subsequent activation of said controller;

means for generating a key from said subsequently ~~generated~~ read-out identifiers;

means for accessing the encrypted data of said read-only memory; and

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means for decrypting said encrypted data by said subsequently generated key.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19 – 25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations recited in claims 19 and 25 (& associated dependent claims).

The present invention is directed to a method for protecting against manipulation of a motor vehicle controller including a microcomputer and at least one memory module(s), said at least one memory module(s) constituting a read-only memory. No singular art disclosing, nor motivation to combine has been found, to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention of initially reading out data stored in said read-only memory at the start-up of the motor vehicle controller; reading out identifiers of said read-only memory and said microcomputer and one of second memories; storing said identifiers in said microcomputer; generating a key corresponding to said identifiers; encrypting said data utilizing said key; saving said encrypted data in said read-only memory; reading out of said identifiers upon subsequent activation of said controller; generating a key from said subsequently read-out identifiers; accessing the encrypted data of said read-only memory; and decrypting said encrypted data by said subsequently generated key.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LONGBIT CHAI whose telephone number is (571)272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Longbit Chai/

Primary Patent Examiner
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4/02/2009